



Overthorpe C of E Academy

Accessibility Plan

Written: April 2025

Review: April 2028

1. Aims

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Maximise the extent to which pupils with a disability can participate in the curriculum; which includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of off-site educational visits
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable pupils and adults with a disability to take better advantage of education, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils and adults with a disability

Overthorpe C of E Academy is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

The plan will be made available on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including disability issues.

We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this plan including representatives of the Academy Trust, pupils, parents, staff and governors.

The schools complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of *schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010* and the Department for Education (DfE) *guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010*.

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long term' adverse effect on his or her ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the *Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice*, 'long term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are expected to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

3. Action Plan

Aim	Current good practice at Overthorpe See Appendix 1	Objectives	Actions	Person/s responsible	Date to complete actions by	Success criteria
Maximise the extent to which pupils with a disability can participate in the curriculum; which includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of off-site educational visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our curriculum has been fine-tuned in the past academic year in order to engage and include all learners including those with a disability. • An ambitious yet supportive curriculum that takes into account needs for pre-teaching and different starting points in place • Curriculum progress is tracked for all pupils, including those with a disability. • Expectations are appropriate to the needs of each and all pupils. • Regular reviews of staff supporting 	To develop wider the curriculum to respond to the strengths and needs of all children	Review of the curriculum to match current needs of all pupils including those with a disability.	SLT / curriculum leader / subject leaders	April 2028	Leader (internal and Trust) and subject leader monitoring will reveal that our most vulnerable pupils are able to access our curriculum

	<p>pupils allows pupils' changing needs to be met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS plans/EHC plans/Health care plans provide planned ways of enabling all pupils to access the curriculum • Off-site visits planned around needs of all pupils 					
<p>Improve the physical environment of the school to enable pupils and adults with a disability to take better advantage of education, facilities and services provided</p>	<p>The environment is adapted to the needs of the pupils as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramped access to lower playground in 2 places • Wheelchair accessible pathway from all site entrances which is joined. • Wide corridors • Disabled toilets • Disabled parking bays • 1 level (no steps) education available if required. 	<p>To improve experiences for disabled pupils in the outdoor environment</p>	<p>1.Site improvements to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory plants, scent texture and sound • Sensory surfaces on wall murals • Purchase of portable ramp to access quadrangle <p>2.Any further building work/ground development will place accessibility</p>	<p>Headteacher /SENDco</p>	<p>April 2028</p>	<p>The Quadrangle will be wheelchair accessible using portable ramp. Raised beds that can be used from a seated position will have scented and tactile planting. Wall murals will include</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site visits planned around needs of all pupils • Staff training for moving and handling of pupil who is a wheelchair user • Wheelchair accessible raised beds in kitchen garden and quadrangle 		as a priority and involve discussion with SENDco.			textured art work.
Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils and adults with a disability	<p>A range of information sharing methods is used in school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online newsletters • School Website including Twitter • Internal/External Signage • Large print resources are available on request 	To research how signage and information can be more accessible to all pupils and parents	1. Visit other Trust schools and more specialist provision to explore how signage and information is made accessible.	SENDco	April 2028	Viable ideas will be found to improve access to information
		To improve signage internally	2. Place visual timetables in relevant areas of school	SENDco	April 2028	Children and adults using visual timetables will have clearer information in key areas of school
				Headteacher	April 2028	

		To improve signage externally	3. Following research, order any additional exterior signage needed.			Exterior signage will enable access of information to a larger group of people
		To extend the range of available forms of information being sent out to parents	4. Explore possibility of 'hearing loop' installation	Headteacher/School admin	April 2028	Better access for hearing impaired.

APPENDIX 1 ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT CHECKLIST

Feature	Description	Actions	Person Responsible	Date to be completed (Review April 2028)
Changes in levels	School has numerous short flights of steps. Larger flights have hand-rails at child height	N/A		

	Alternative routes available but mostly outside. 2 classrooms are available should there be a need for one level education.			
Corridor Access	Corridors are wide enough for wheelchair access and there are areas to turn.	Corridors to be kept tidy and free from obstructions in order to maintain this space	All school staff	Ongoing to April 2028
Parking Bays	School has a disabled parking space.	Disabled parking spaces only to be used by blue badge holders and kept clear of obstructions	Premises Manager/office staff	Ongoing to April 2028
Entrances	All entrances to site are wheelchair accessible. There is level access into the reception area and Reception/Nursery class. Upper KS2 has ramped access. Sloped access to upper entrances. Upper KS2 and Y1 and Y1/2 classes have one low step from playground.	N/A		
Emergency escape routes	Labelled well and clearly displayed throughout school.	Ensure signs are maintained.	Premises Manager	Review April 2028

	Ramped/level access to outside assembly point available for all classes except Y1 and Y1/2 which have 2 steps. Y5 and 6 level access via Kitchen garden.	Wheelchair users whole class to NOT use current Y1 and Y2 classrooms.	Head teacher/SLT/Academy Trust Head teacher/SLT/Academy Trust	April 2028
Toilets	1 disabled toilet is accessible from main entrance reception level. 1 disable toilet is accessed through Reception class work room Wheelchair accessible changing bed located in Reception disabled toilet	Disabled toilets to be kept free from obstruction	All school staff	Ongoing until April 2028
Doors	Main entrance door is wide enough for wheelchair access. All classroom doors are not wide enough for adult wheelchair access due to safety hinge protectors. All class doors allow a view through at the level of a wheelchair	Any new building alteration work to include widening of classroom door on entrance level of school and possibly staffroom door.	Headteacher/SLT/Premises Manager/Academy Trust	Review April 2028

	user as do exterior doors.			
Fire alarms	Currently auditory alarms fitted.	Visible fire alarms to be fitted when new system is required.	Headteacher/SLT/Premises Manager/Academy Trust	Review April 2028